people. I have taken out this curtailment up to four acres, but I am not also going to leave anything not attempted, to see that this thing is going down to every corner of the country and the farmers get benefit out of it. Not only this; I can assure the House that the trends shown by drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation give more yields and also save on fertiliser use. So, with all these benefits combined I think this is the only way that India can progress on the agricultural front and we are going to do that.

SHRI G. G. SWELL- Madam, the Minister said that Rs. 12,000 per acre is the cost. In answer to the question he said that it is not high. A number of *knowledgeable people in this country in*cluding manufacturers say that the cost per acre would be met with Rs. 6000. Now, I would like to know what the Minister's formula is. Can he give us this break up? How did he arrive at the figure of Rs. 12,000?

SHRI BALARAM JAKHAR: Madam this figure varies according to the different types of crops which we have to irrigate. It can vary from mango plantation to sugarcane plantation or cotton plantation. It can vary from place to place. It is not that every acreage will be falling under this view. For this purpose I am holding a conference with the manufacturer to bring down the cost to make it available and affordable to my farmers and also to impress upon them that this should be standardised. The farmers should not be cheated. For that very purpose I am taking every effort to finalise it.

श्रीमती उर्मिलाबेन चिमनभाई पटेल : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहूंगी कि ड्रिप इरीगेशन अपनाने के लिए गुजरात गवर्नमेंट ने केन्द्र सरकार के पास जो स्कीम रखी है क्या आप यह स्कीम मंजूर कर रहे हैं और कब तक कर रहे हैं तथा जो सौ करोड़ रुपया मांगा है वह मंजूर करेंगे ?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I could not follow what she has said.

श्री सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी : गुजरात गवर्नमेंट ने जो आपसे पूछा है आप कब उसका जवाब देंगे–ड्रिप इरीगेशन के बारे में ?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Madam, I have already talked to the Chief Minister; and whatever case is lying with us, it will not be delayed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 131.

Capital investmennt in Agriculture

*131. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:†

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of capital investment in agriculture during the last three years and which are the major regions going for higher capital investment;

(b) whether the credit quantum and percentage in overall lending by nationalised banks fulfil the rising demand for agricultural credit; and

(c) if not, what are the avenues for raising level of lending to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

† The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chimanbhai Mehta.

Statement

The following Table gives the estimates of gross capital formation to agriculture during the last three years:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	At current prices	at 1980-81 prices
1989-90	10074	4348
1990-91	11685	4642
1991-92*	13143	4580

*Quick estimates

The responsibility of bringing out estimates of gross capital formation in States is that of the respective State Governments. These estimates are not available for all States.

Nationalised banks are expected to devote 18 per cent of the net bank credit for agricultural lending. In addition Co-operatives and Regional Rural Banks and other commercial banks also provide agricultural credit. These institutional agencies have been substantially meeting the demand for agricultural credit.

However, rising demand for agricultural credit can be met through these institutional sources by enhanced deposit mobilisation, increased availability of refinance, better recycling of funds through improved recoveries and by improving the viability of agricultural lending.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Madam, they have said that there is a problem of paucity of agricultural finance. They said that they do not have figures from the States about the capital investment. Now agriculture is the topmost priority subject in India, why have you not thought of collecting figures from the States about the capital investment till this date? We are facing paucity of funds in the agricultural sector. The international financial institutions here are trying to obtain international finances. May I know from the Minister whether his Ministry has instructed NABARD to find extra resources from the World Bank and other financial institutions? Unless you know what the capital investment in the States is and what their requirements are you will not be able to come to the appropriate figure. Only on demand you are trying to workout something. May I know from the Minister whether the NABARD or the Government of India have ever tried to explore the possibility of procuring foreign finance? This is my first question.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Madam, as we should all know, today agriculture is an investment-oriented area. You cannot have good agriculture without investment. It is the basic input in it. For that this question arises. But I can assure you that we have reversed the trend. Earlier there was a question regarding agricultural policy here. But the hon. Member was not here and it was not answered. I was trying to place it before the House that we took note of the situation and that the declining trend or the adverse trend regacding investment in agriculture should be reversed. And, that is what we have tried to do. I have been able to achieve a considerable portion of the target. There was a declining trend as far as private and public investments were concerned. The investmest came down. It was 12.3 per cent in public sector and 15.5 percent in private sector in 1960-61. Then it dipped down, in 1988-89, to 11.2 per cent in private sector and seven per cent in pulic sector. Again it came down in 1989-90 to 5.6 per cent in public sector and 13.1 per cent in private. But again we have gone up and now, in the private sector it has gone up to 15.6 per cent and in the public sector it remains at 5.6 per cent. This is only due to the fact that in the earlier stages, when we become independent, much

stress was laid on hydro-electric schemes, multipurpose irrigation projects and all that. Some were completed and some are in the process.

In the Seventh Plan and this Plan we have tried to see that the ongoing projects are completed. But as the trend has changed as far as the agricultural prices are concerned and as the farmers have got the wherewithal with them, they are investing themselves. More and more investment is coming in. We gave it a basic priority in the Agricultural Policy and said that investment should increase in the agricultural sector. May I just bring it to the notice of the House that in the Seventh Plan the provision for agriculture was about Rs. 3400 crores and it was raised to Rs. 10,000 crores in the Eighth Plan. We are going to be much more than that. On that score, I can assure the House that we are not lagging behind and we are going to make up for the lost time.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Madam, my question is not answered. Before I come to the next supplementary, let him answer the main question. I asked him whether the Government tried to mobilise international finance for agricultural through the NABARD... (Interruptions).

उपसभापति :: आप इतना लम्बा पूछेंगे तो टाइम खत्म हो जाएगा, वह जवाब दे रहे थे। मंत्री जी, बोल दीजिए।

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: I have asked him why the States are not being asked to collect. (Interruptions).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have other names also.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We are trying to mobilise international as well as private-sector finance. We are inviting good companies also so that they could come and have some collaborations with us in the agricultural front. Without investment in agriculture, we cannot have formative planning, we cannot have export-orientation. That is why I am impressing upon my Ministry as well as the farmers to have diversification in agriculture. We must produce. We must have the wherewithal, the foundation, for the New Agriculture Policy. That should create more money, in processing, in storage and in transportation, all these things combined. And that is the only way in which we can progress.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Minister, it has gone down.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Madam, the Minister has said that he is encouraging diversification by bringing resources. I would like to ask him whether he would also promote agricultural exports. The Commerce Minister has said that there is negative subsidy on agricultural exports. I would like to know from the Minister whether export pushes would take place for agricultural products.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: As far as the industrial exports are concerned, I think they get something out of something. But, here, in agriculture, it is a hundred per cent ours. This year, it was more than Rs. 10,000 crores. I have a plan and idea for the coming years. My target is more than Rs. 40,000 crores in five or six years. That is what I am going to do. We are going to do something which will galvanize the whole economic structure of this country. We are going to create such conditions in the rural sector where farmers can sit side by side, can walk side, by side, with the other sections of the society.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Madam, the Agriculture Minister himself has agreed that at least in the public sector agricultural investment has gone down, and whatever data we have separately also suggest the same situation obtaining in the private sector. The fact remains that agriculture is crucially dependent on Government activity for investment and as a consequence of the policies which have been forced upon our Government by the International Monetary Fund, we have to contract our Budget and the impact of that is being felt in the agricultural sector. So, could I humbly request the

Agriculture Minister to speak to the Finance Minister and see that these conditions are reversed and we pull back the country on to the road of independent economic development?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I can assure the hon. Members that I stand by them with that subject and I will do my utmost. Don't worry; we will get it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN- Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Privatisation of Iron Ore Mine National Minerals Development Corporation

*121. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government propose to hand over to a private group a high grade iron ore mine of the NMDC, which has shown reserves of the higest grade iron ore after exploration;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the reasons for handingg over the iron ore mine to a private group;

(c) what are the terms and conditions, if any, laid down for handing over the iron ore mine to a private group; and

(d) whether Government contemplate a change in its policy to privatise the mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH DEV): (a) Government have so far not taken any decision to hand over any high grade iron ore mine of NMDC to a private group.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Non payment of dues by NBCC

*122. DR. SANJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of contractors have not been paid their dues for the last one year by the National Building Construction Corporation;

(b) if so, what are the details of the pending payments together with the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when, the payments are proposed to be released?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SHEILA KAUL): (a) to (c) Normally, the payments to the contractors are made by the NBCC within a period of two months unless the payments are disputed or are under arbitration. However, there may be stray cases where payments have been delayed due to certain reasons, including delayed payments by the clients. Every effort is made to release the payments to the contractors in time.

The Units of the NBCC are scattered all over the country and in a few countries abroad. Payments are released by the concerned Units and no central account is kept regarding payments to contractors.

Storage capacity of C.W.C.

*123. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what is the storage capacity of the Central Warehousing Corporation and how those godowns are used; and

(b) what are the goods stored in them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The storage capacity of Central Warehousing Corporation as on 1-9-1993 was 65.83 lakh tonnes. Central Warehousing Corporation's godowns are used for storage of agricultural produce, fertilisers, seeds, manures, agricultural equipments and other notified commodities.